

Women in Information Technology Innovation in Africa



Dorcas Muthoni is founder and Chief Executive Officer of Openworld Ltd, a specialist computer software company she established in Kenya when she was 24 years old. Today, Openworld is an e-Government and business software services firm involved in the delivery of some of the most widely used Web and Cloud applications in Africa, such as ARIS, an African Union reporting application used by all 54 member states; and the performance management system for the Government of Kenya, automating performance contracting in the public sector. Dorcas is passionate about using technology to positively transform African society through the lives of its ordinary people, businesses and governments and is a co-founder of the regional organization LinuxChix Africa. She also serves as a director at Ushahidi, and she is a member of the council of the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa. Through her day to day work as an entrepreneur and computer scientist, she seeks to see technology positively transforming the lives of the African society, governments and enterprises. In 2012 Dorcas was inducted by the Internet Society into the Internet Hall of Fame.



Rapelang Rabana has recently been honored by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader for 2017 and featured on the cover of *Forbes Africa* by the age of 30; she is an entrepreneur and thought leader in the burgeoning technology industry, a founding member of Yeigo Communications, one the first mobile VoIP applications, her latest project Rekindle Learning has been profiled as a 'striking innovation' in mobile learning for both academia and corporate training environments. Selected as a Fast Company Maverick and named Entrepreneur for the World 2014 by the World Entrepreneurship Forum.

Rapelang has extensive experience in tech and business - from fintech as a board member for Moro Group, green tech as a board member for Meniko Records Management Services, financial advisory and private equity as a director of Nisela Capital to trend analysis as part of World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council for Software and Society. She also serves on the Advisory Board of Project Literacy, a campaign founded and convened by Pearson to address global illiteracy levels. As an internationally speaker, Rapelang has shared the stage with the likes of the president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and Professor Mohammed Yunus of Grameen Bank. In the course of 2013, Rapelang tapped into her long-term interest in learning and education and founded Rekindle Learning, an education technology company founded on the belief that every person should be able to develop their knowledge and learn. Hence, she holds the belief that mobile and internet technology will be instrumental in solving a number of socio-economic challenges at scale.



Ethel D. Cofie is CEO and Founder of EDEL Technology Consulting, an information technology consulting and digital products company in West Africa and Europe that has been named IT consulting firm of the year by the Telecoms and IT Industry. Cofie has also been named one of the Top 5 Women impacting IT in Africa, and she is founder of Women in Tech Africa, Africa's largest women in tech group with members in over 30 Africa countries and in the Diaspora and

growing. She created of Women in Tech Week, a global event which started in 2016 to bring together women in technology. The first events brought together over 10,000 women virtually with physical events in Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Canada, Germany, Belgium and China. She has been shortlisted for the UN GEMTech Awards, with her thoughts and opinions on innovation and technology in emerging markets featured in prestigious publications like *Wired UK*, *New Africa Woman*, *European Business Review* and *Business Africa* amongst others. She is a Mandela Fellow for President Obama's Young African Leaders initiative (YALI) with a wealth of technical and commercial skills acquired across a wide range of demanding roles and Over 12 years' experience working in the UK ,Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone on projects like Bill and Melinda Gates funded Mobile Technology for Health project, the Ford Foundation's Election Monitoring project for Nigeria and as head of commercial solutions for Vodafone conceptualizing, executing and working with teams to align corporate strategy to IT strategy and to develop and manage creative technology solutions, she was featured on *BBC* and with opinion pieces are published on *CNN* on the topics of technology in emerging markets, and women leadership.



Rebecca Enonchong is the founder and CEO of AppsTech and I/O Spaces. She is chair of ActivSpaces (African Center for Technology Innovation and Ventures), an incubator in Cameroon. *Forbes* magazine listed her as a top female tech founder in Africa. Rebecca has spent much of her career promoting technology in Africa. She has carried out the work in both the U.S. and in Africa. She was the founder and chairperson of the Africa Technology Forum, a non-profit dedicated to helping technology startups in Africa.. She is also a founding member of the African Business Angel Network, a Pan African non-profit association founded early 2015 to support the development of early stage investor

networks across the continent and to get many more (early stage) investors excited about the opportunities in Africa.



Anna Ekeledo is the executive director of AfriLabs, a Pan-African network of over 50 technology innovation hubs across 24 African countries, founded in 2011 to build a community around the rapidly emerging tech hubs in Africa. She currently heads the operations of AfriLabs Foundation through its secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria and manages its partnership, projects and strategic objectives; she is a technology enthusiast with experience in the non-profit, ICT, financial technology and digital media sectors. Prior to joining AfriLabs, she was involved in pioneering various social technology related projects such as the Annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program for Teenage Girls for the Visiola

Foundation in partnership with Intel and Young Engineers and the Empowering Women with Technology Programme for Wild Fusion, in partnership with Access Bank, Nigeria. She has also worked as a certified digital marketing trainer, training on behalf of organizations such as Wild Fusion Digital Centre, Lagos (Local Centre of the Digital Marketing Institute, Ireland), which she helped to set up Google Nigeria and Lagos Business School. Anna also engages in business and marketing consulting, supporting non-profits and small businesses meet their business objectives through strategic planning and implementation of innovative and sustainable strategies. She is passionate about leveraging on technology and digital platforms for social good with a strong focus on human development, capacity building, economic and social impact, inclusion and sustainability.